

AFGHAN WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks of September 11 swept away our innocence and left us with grief and anger, anxiety and a resoluteness to make sure this does not happen again and to eradicate terrorism.

I just listened to part of a special order that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) had with regard to screening baggage. Security is critically important. We do have the technology to do it. I want to comment on my cosponsorship of that legislation and the need that we do something more about security, making sure that every bag is checked.

But also with regard to September 11, I rise before this body to recognize the women of Afghanistan. Later we are going to hear from the Women's Caucus, a special order. I want to thank the Women's Caucus and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) for initiating that special order, but I chose to speak at this point about the same issue.

Upon seizing power in 1996, the Taliban in Afghanistan instituted a system of gender apartheid over the women of Afghanistan. Under the Taliban, women have been stripped of their visibility, their voice, and their mobility. They are unable to participate in the workforce, attend schools or universities, and often prohibited from leaving their homes unless accompanied by a close male relative. The windows of their homes are often painted black; and they are all forced to wear a burqa, or chadari, which completely shrouds the body, leaving only a small, mesh-covered opening through which to see. Women are prohibited from being examined by male physicians while at the same time female doctors and nurses are prohibited from working.

Women have been brutally beaten, publicly flogged and killed for violating Taliban decrees. In Kabul and other cities, a few home schools for girls operate, although they operate only in secret. Women who conduct these secret classes to educate women are risking their lives or risking a very severe beating. Many of us watched in horror these circumstances which were documented in the film, "Beneath the Veil."

Prior to the Taliban control, Mr. Speaker, especially in Kabul, which is the capital, women in Afghanistan were educated and they were employed. Fifty percent of the students and 60 percent of the teachers at Kabul University were women. And 70 percent of school teachers, 50 percent of civilian government workers, and 40 percent of doctors in Kabul were women. The

Taliban shield their behavior behind claims of a pure, fundamentalist Islamic ideology, yet the oppression they perpetrate against women has no basis in Islam. Within Islam, women are allowed to earn and control their own money and participate in public life.

Mr. Speaker, I will be joining my colleagues who will be following this evening in recognizing the women and the girls who have been enslaved and stripped of their basic human rights under the leadership of the Taliban. I hope that we can raise the awareness of gender apartheid in Afghanistan and women around the world who are unable to escape severe poverty, who face an extreme lack of health care and education, and survive day to day with constant hunger.

In the next few weeks, I will be introducing the GAINS Act, which stands for, the acronym, Global Action and Investments for New Success for Women and Girls. I am introducing this legislation because economic globalization is leaving the world's poorest women, girls, and communities behind. Women and their children make up more than 70 percent of the 1.3 billion poorest people today.

Because we have not taken adequate steps to implement commitments made at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in its foreign policy and international assistance programs, we need a template for ensuring the implementation of these important commitments. I hope that everyone in this body will join me in supporting the GAINS Act and also in taking steps to improve the lives of millions of women and girls in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO RUSH LIMBAUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am joined tonight by the distinguished whip, TOM DELAY. I want to say, kind of listening to our Democrat friends speaking before we spoke tonight, it was inspirational, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to see things are getting back to normal again in Washington. That is what the President has been calling for. And so, doing their part, the Democrats were very partisan and petty. So I appreciate that.

I am sorry to say that they are misguided. They want to create a new Federal bureaucracy in the airports, and I for one feel that we should model security the way they do it in Europe and the way they do it in Israel because they have had so much more experience with terrorism. And the way to do that is to have Federal standards for private sector security, not a new government bureaucracy.

I would ask my Democrat friends in great sincerity, would they want the Post Office to run the security system at airports? Certainly not. Because we all know that the private sector can be far more efficient and effective at doing a job than one more government agency coming out of Washington, D.C.

With this, Mr. Speaker, we are joined by the great man from Arizona, Mr. J.D. HAYWORTH. I want to begin with saying:

No. 15. If you commit a crime, you're not guilty.

No. 18. I am not arrogant.

No. 20. There is a God.

No. 23. The only way liberals win national elections is by pretending they're not liberal.

No. 3. No Nation has ever taxed itself into prosperity.

No. 4. Evidence refutes liberalism.

No. 5. There is no such thing as a New Democrat.

These, Mr. Speaker, are among the great gems of wisdom in Rush Limbaugh's 35 undeniable truths, and we want to be talking about our friend Mr. Limbaugh tonight.

I would start by yielding the floor to the majority whip, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. TOM DELAY.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman from Georgia bringing this special order on Rush Limbaugh, particularly following what we saw just right before us, in the special order right before us, the Democrats out here talking about security in airports. Rush Limbaugh, I am sure, would have a lot to say in answer to what the Democrats were saying.

It is quite amazing to me. I saw one gentleman, I believe it was the gentleman from Mississippi, talking about we should have the security that they enjoy in Israel and in Europe. Actually that is what the President is trying to do and the Democrats are trying to thwart.

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They want to nationalize this system. They do not want to federalize the system; they want to nationalize it, something Europe tried, by the way. And after just a few years, the hijackings and the bombings and the threats that came against the airlines coming out of Europe were so bad that they threw away the nationalized system and imposed the system now that the President is trying to bring as a model from Europe and from Israel.

Israel has not had a hijacking because they have the right system, the system that the President is trying to see implemented here in the United States. What that system is basically changes the present system that we know has a lot to be desired and changes that system so that the Federal Government comes in with standards and criteria and even certification of those that screen at the airports, but